



SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN

MACHINE OPERATOR SAFETY

NO. 3

NO. 4

NO. 5



On February 8, 2004, at approximately 12:01 a.m., a Tazewell County coal miner was seriously injured when his right hand was caught between the coal rib and the operator deck frame of a Fletcher Roof Ranger 2 Roof Drill. The injured miner was transported to Bluefield Regional Hospital where he was treated and then transported to Charleston General Hospital in Charleston, West Virginia.

The injured miner was positioned in the operators compartment on his knees and was tramming the roof drill in reverse to #5 entry where he could turn the machine before moving to the face area. He had been installing belt hangers in #4 entry. As he was turning into the #4 right crosscut, the injured miner was watching the miner cable that was partially hung across the #4 entry. The victim had positioned his right hand on the outside of the deck frame when it was caught between the coal rib and the machine deck frame.

This resulted in an amputated right ring finger and fractured right little finger. The injured miner stated he felt the metacarpel gloves he was wearing saved his three other fingers from amputation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Never place any part of your body in a pinch point area.
- Keep all parts of your body within the confines of the operators deck at all times.
- Be constantly aware of your surroundings and if you are not sure of equipment clearance stop, de-energize your machine and look at your situation before proceeding.

ACCIDENT
REDUCTION PROGRAM